DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Geographic News Bulletin

This bulletin is issued weekly by the Department of the Interior. The information in it is obtained from the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, Washington, D. C.

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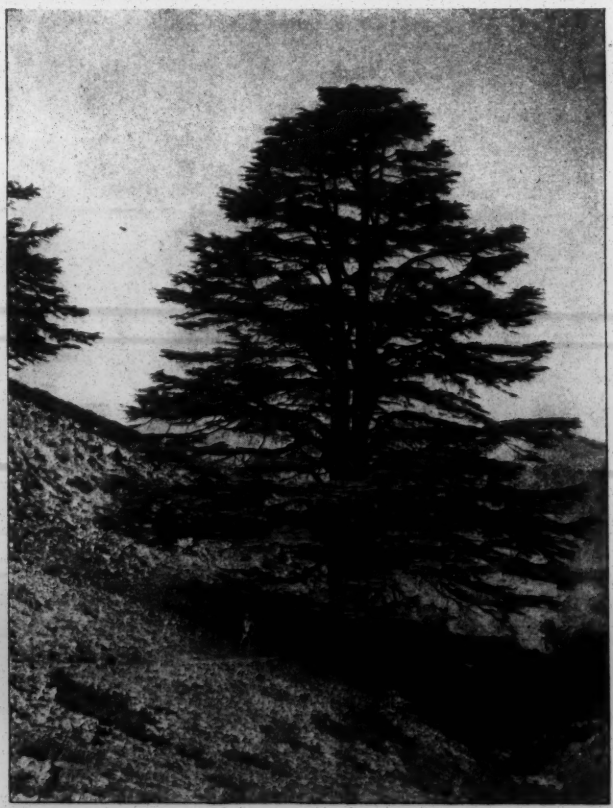

THE MOST FAMOUS OF THE CEDARS OF LEBANON

This stately tree has been reproduced in the seal of an American university at Beirut, an institution with more than a thousand students. Although there are great groves of these trees in the Taurus Mountains, only about four hundred specimens remained, up until a few months ago, on the Lebanon heights (see Bulletin No. 2)

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Cork: Most Irish City in Ireland

CORK, third city of Ireland, a considerable part of which was recently destroyed by fire, bears a very superficial resemblance to our own New York in that its nucleus is situated on an island enfolded by two arms of a river where its waters meet a bay. The comparison soon becomes a contrast, however, for Cork is a city of less than 80,000 souls, has few public buildings or thoroughfares of importance, and was built on a low, swampy site instead of on the rocky ribs of Mother Earth.

The stream that enfolded Cork before it grew across its watery barriers is the River Lee which rises in a little lake to the north. From a tiny island in the lake came the pious hermit, St. Fin Barre, who established a monastery on the island at the mouth of the river in the seventh century, and from this start the present city has grown. Both the Catholic and Protestant cathedrals of Cork are dedicated to this early Irish saint.

At the head of one of the finest harbors in Ireland—a land-locked cove whose waters are as placid as those of a lake—Cork has been subject since its establishment to attacks by sea marauders. Invading Danes burned the city in 21 and again in 1012, and after the second destruction founded on the site a Danish trading post. The Irish, again in control of the city, submitted to the English in 1172, who for many years maintained a precarious foothold.

The Irish eventually regained Cork not by force of arms but by "infiltration," for before a great while the one-time Danish post was the most Irish city in Ireland, its government entirely in the hands of the people of Erin.

Lord Mayor Beheaded in 1492

A tragedy overtook Cork the year Columbus discovered America, and was visited most heavily on its Lord Mayor. During that year the city received and assisted Perkin Warbeck, pretender to the English throne. The mayor lost his head and the city its charter.

Cork's wonderful harbor has given it a maritime importance since early days. Recognition of this fact is seen in the title of Admiral of the Port bestowed on the Lord Mayor of Cork by Edward IV and held by the Lords Mayor to the present day. In a triennial ceremony the Lords Mayor evidence their right to the title of Admiral by casting a dart out over the harbor.

Queenstown Practically Part of Cork

Queenstown, at the head of the outer harbor, and practically a part of Cork, is the port of call and departure for trans-Atlantic liners. This fact has made Cork a city of sadness to many, for perhaps a million or more men

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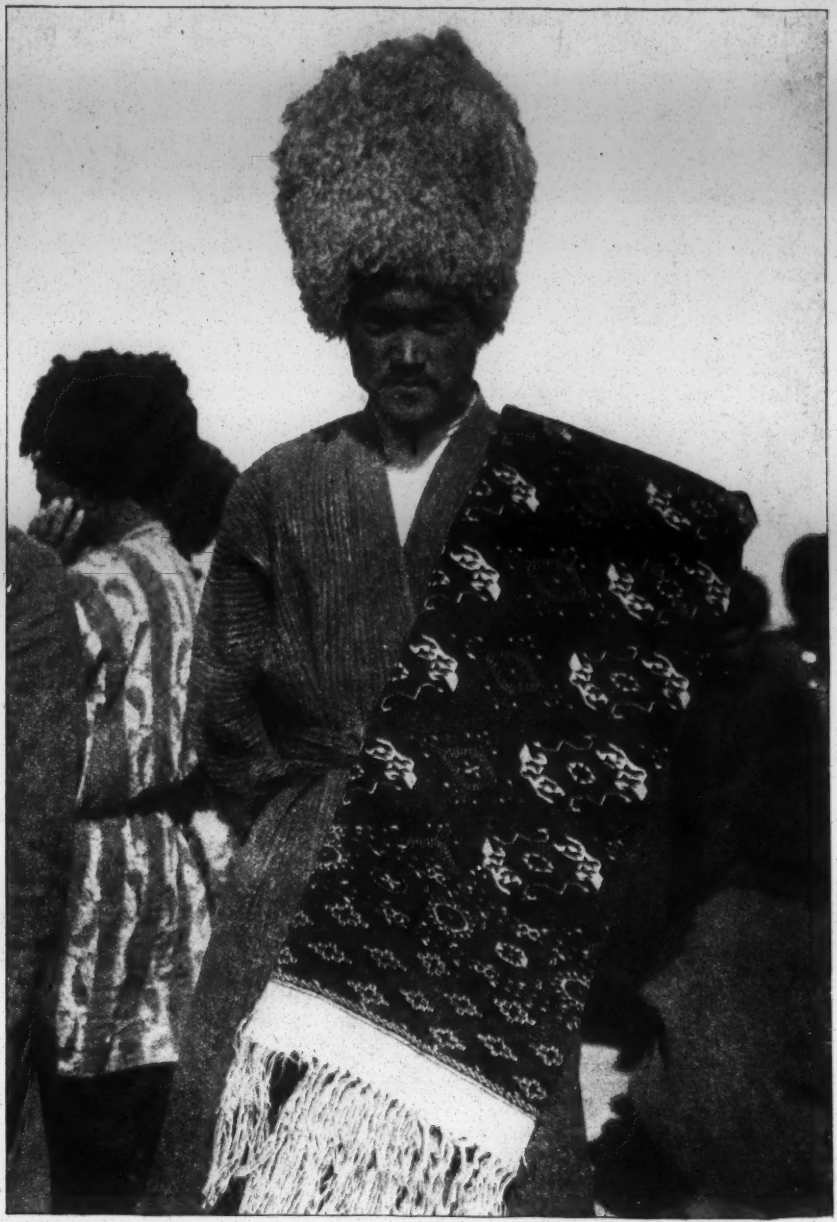

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A JEWEL OF THE HAND LOOM

When a small dealer in Merv wants to sell a rug he drops it over his shoulder thus and acts unconcerned; that gives the impression that the rug has merits that need no salesmanship

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Syria: Now Under French and Zionist Rule

SYRIA, for the control of the northern part of which the Turkish Nationalists are threatening to fight the French mandate-holders, and the southern part of which is settling quietly under Zionist and British control, is another name for "the Holy Land"; for under Turkey it comprised the region extending from the Taurus Mountains to Egypt, and from the desert to "the Great Sea."

Its population numbers about three and a half millions, of Semitic origin, speaking the Arabic language, and yet with so many races intermingled through the centuries of the various conquests and occupations that the people cannot claim any one race as their own.

Greek, Roman and European crusader have all blended with the ancient Semitic stock to produce the Syrians of today, whom Lord Cromer, in his memoirs, termed "the cream of the East."

Lebanon Was the One Green Spot of Turkey

In Syria was the one green spot of Turkey—the Lebanon mountains. In ancient times the mountains were everywhere covered with forests. The cedars of Lebanon not only furnished timber for the building of Solomon's temple in Jerusalem, but the kings of Egypt annually floated large rafts of logs from the Syrian coast to supply the demands of the cities of the Nile. This constant demand from foreign lands, together with the lack of any system of reforestation, has practically denuded the mountains of the whole land.

Once more to cover the mountains and hills with pine and cedar and oak would be a simple task if carried on systematically, and under the new control this work is now being undertaken. The chief enemy in the last few years of reforestation by nature is the herd of goats which every spring roam over the whole country and devour every green thing. The little seedling trees suffer especially.

How Good Government Brought Prosperity

In 1860, because of massacres, the European Powers insisted that these mountains be made autonomous. And following that date this little district became a living demonstration of what good government will produce and of what the people of the land are capable of becoming.

The steep mountain sides were terraced to a height of 4,000 feet and planted to olives, figs and vines. Taxes were low, safety to persons and property secured, good roads built and kept in repair. The people con-

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and women, in largest part mere boys and girls forced by economic pressure to emigrate, have there bidden good-by with set faces and streaming eyes to the land they love so well.

Hundreds Died From Hunger

When Ireland suffered what was perhaps the most pathetic of its tribulations, the famine of 1847, Cork became the center of its sorrows. Thousands of miserable, emaciated creatures made their way there from all over Ireland hoping to gain passage to America. Hundreds died of hunger along the roads leading to the city and in its very streets.

While there are practically no points of great interest in Cork, close by is one of the best known and most frequently visited spots in all Ireland. It is the ruined tower of Blarney Castle, stronghold of Cormac McCarthy, who, legend has it, instructed by an old hag he had rescued to kiss one of the stones of the tower—the famous "blarney stone"—became irresistibly eloquent.

On the picturesque, wooded shores of the spacious and beautiful harbor of Cork are many pleasant resorts and fine country places. One of the latter, Tivoli, the home of Sir Walter Raleigh, is on the estate given to him by Queen Elizabeth. Edmund Spenser was the recipient of many acres at the same period. In Kilcolman Castle, near Cork, he wrote "The Faerie Queene."

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Resources of Albania

NOW that the Rapallo Agreement between Italy and Jugo-Slavia has cleared up the status of the northern part of the eastern coast of the Adriatic, Albania is the only country bordering on those historic waters about whose boundaries there is still some doubt. As one of the countries whose confines will probably be fixed in the near future, Albania takes on an added interest. The resources of this portion of the Balkan peninsula are dealt with in the following communication to the National Geographic Society from Brigadier General George P. Scriven, U. S. A., who made a tour of the country shortly after the Austrians had been driven out in 1918.

The Albanians are probably neither so good nor so bad as they have been painted, but certainly they are worth the effort necessary to develop them and their country. Their chief desire now is to be allowed to manage their own affairs and to work their little farms in the fertile valleys, to herd their sheep and weave their garments of wool, if only they are let alone. They do not submit easily to government; have no love for chance strangers, and are slow to accept change in the manner of living or of cultivating the fields.

Rich in Minerals

The mountains of Albania are practically unexplored. Mineral pitch, or asphaltum, has been known since the time of the Romans, and near Valona I have seen specimens, clean, black, and hard, which promise well. Traces of petroleum, too, have been found by the Italians, and I am told boring is, or is about to be, undertaken. Copper and iron are believed to exist in the hills about the Malik Valley, and coal, silver, and lead are said to be present elsewhere in the mountains. Gold mines were worked in ancient times and Albanian silver was known to the Venetians, but the whole mountain country has lain neglected for ages. It cannot be doubted that with the coming of the soldiers, the building of roads, and the development of the country now going on, especially in sections occupied by the Italians, there will be a change in Albania and in its people.

The climate of Albania is considered healthful in the uplands, though subject to violent changes, which are trying to the stranger, at certain seasons, even if he is confined to one locality. But when a traveler, moving rapidly about the country in a motor—the only practicable way of traveling in these days—rushes several thousand feet from a mountain height, cold and windy and probably snow-covered, into a warm, sunshiny valley and back again in the fraction of an hour, it is well to have a care.

Must War on Fever

May is the pleasantest month of the year and the valleys then look their best. Snow, of course, lies in the mountains until well into the spring, but

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structed more comfortable homes and sent their sons to school and college.

The story of the achievements of the Lebanon during the sixty years of autonomy would be a thrilling narrative in itself.

THE QUEENLY CARRIAGE OF THE SYRIAN WOMEN COMES FROM BEARING HEAVY BURDENS UPON THEIR HEADS

What two women can lift to its seemingly insecure position, one woman can carry for long distances over rough roads and steep paths. Usually the day's laundry is perched on top of the water-jar as the fair maiden returns from the wayside gossiping center to her mud-walled home

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Turkestan: Her Rugs and Woman Problem

TURKESTAN has been figuring in the world's news lately because of the activities of the Bolsheviki in this central Asian borderland of the old Russian empire; but it is known best to Americans by its wonderful rugs. How the rug industry has affected the people of Turkestan is told in the following communication to the National Geographic Society:

"If some one asserted that the American love for Oriental rugs had changed the marriage customs of a nomadic people, had brought forth on this globe a comparatively homely race of human beings, and had built up a complex system of morals in the heart of Asia, it would seem like a sensational story. Yet, that statement seems well founded, and love for beauty in America has reacted on the facial features of a princely race in Turkestan with deplorable result. Truly it is a small world when an artistic recluse in a New York studio fathers a homely son in a distant desert. Yet, the rising generation of Turkomans are distinctly homelier than their princely sires. And the conquest of their domain by Russia does not entirely explain it.

The Loveliest Product of the Desert Loom

"The Tekkintzi rug, more commonly known by the less distinctive name of Bokhara, is the loveliest product of the desert loom. Its charm lies not in intricacy of design, manifold detail, or symbolic meaning. It is not a picture in wool. Brilliancy of coloring it does not have. But in richness of tone the Tekkintzi wins its rightful place as queen of rugs.

"Its symphony of soft and sober color has its major and minor chords. From one direction it is dark and quiet and soft. But as the light strikes down into its velvety nap, it shines with a light overtone and reveals a sheen like that of silk, such as can come only from years of contact with the flexible, high-arched feet of the desert mother or the heel-less boots of her master.

Her Rugs and Her Skill Comprised Her Dowry

"Years of care in selecting the long-fibered, spotless wool, in dyeing it in reds from Bokhara, blues from Afghanistan, or blacks from Merv, with a touch of orange or yellow now and then, and in weaving it beneath the hot sun of the dry desert, give the Tekkintzi a character which more hurried methods cannot give. It reveals no trace of foreign accent, for its language of lasting beauty is bred in the blood.

"For centuries, possibly extending back to the Iranian peoples whom Alexander found here on his way to India, the Tekke maiden has been taught to dye and weave. When she was married to her Mohammedan husband, the young bride took with her to her master's hut the rugs her patient toil had formed, and he in turn paid a corresponding price to her parents. Her dowry was her skill and its product. She was a menial, but with the soul of an artist. Her toil was long, but it was not drudgery. She was not a slave, for

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seldom lasts throughout the summer, as the tallest peaks do not attain an elevation of more than 8,000 feet.

Malarial fever afflicts both Albania and Macedonia. The army medical report in my possession gives a rate of 25 per cent since the occupation of Albania—probably an average, for I have heard of one command having 80 per cent of its men sick with malarial fever at one time. However, the health of the troops at the time of which I am writing, the spring of 1918, was very good.

The fever of the Balkans is persistent, but is not especially fatal. Still it is to be dreaded for its lingering effects and the great debility it causes. The usual specific is quinine, a supply of which is placed on the mess table or carried about in the pocket.

In Macedonia, especially north of Saloniki, in the Struma Valley, which produces probably the finest cigarette tobacco of the world, there is found a climate said to be as bad as that of the west African coast.

How Winter Compels Peace

Winters are short, but cold and rainy, and the country roads become almost impassable lakes of mud, over which there can be little transportation. In consequence, military operations are limited to the few metalled roads that exist and to the dry season

Before the arrival of the Allies, one of whose first cares was to improve the roads, few highways existed in Albania and Macedonia, except the old Turkish road from Santi Quaranta to Saloniki, with its branches in the former country south to Janina, in old Greece, and north to Berat.

During my stay in Albania I traveled by motor over many miles of road built by the Italians—not mere ephemeral military lines of communication, but permanent highways, admirably traced and skillfully built. I speak particularly of the magnificent 55-mile turnpike from Valona to Tepeleni and the highway from Santi Quaranta to Valona. The latter is probably one of the most interesting examples of road-building to be found the world over. It was constructed, under the direction of General Ferraro, by Italian soldiers and several thousand Austrian prisoners, aided by the Albanians of the country-side, who were paid by the Italian Government. It extends 81 miles, for the most part along the Adriatic, but high above the sea. Built for the permanent use of the people of southern Albania, as much as for military purposes, it is, like the old Roman roads, made to last through the centuries, and this is one of the superb highways of the world, both in point of construction and outlook. It was sufficiently completed for motor travel in the remarkably short time of about 67 days.

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Why Salton Sea Is Salt

REPORTS that plans are under way to develop water power from the Colorado River—which gave ample proof of the power it can exert in the carving of the Grand Canyon—are said to have aroused apprehension in the minds of the operators of irrigated farms in the Imperial Valley of California, near the shores of the Salton Sea. The Imperial Valley depends on the Colorado for its irrigation waters.

The Salton Sea is really a part of the Gulf of California, but on a lower level and with a great dyke of silt separating it from the greater body of water.

Pacific's Waters Once Far Inland

"Many centuries ago the Gulf of California extended to a point about 150 miles northwestward from its present head," says a communication to the National Geographic Society from Arthur P. Davis.

"It also extended up the present valley of the Colorado River at least to Yuma and probably somewhat above. The Colorado River, rising in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming and the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, carved the rocks along its course and brought the resulting sands and mud down in its swift current, discharging them into the arm of the gulf near Yuma.

"As this process went on, without cessation, century after century, the valley was gradually filled, a delta built up over which the river flowed far out into the gulf. It encroached progressively upon the shores of the gulf until it built up a delta entirely across, joining the foothills of the Cocopah Mountains on the western shore. This cut off the head of the gulf, and the arid climate rapidly evaporated the waters thus separated and left an inland depression, which at its lowest point was nearly 300 feet below sea-level. It is estimated that the amount of silt carried by the Lower Colorado River is sufficient to cover 53 square miles one foot deep with dry alluvial soil each year.

River's Delta Dammed Gulf

"The river continued to bring down its load of sediment and to build its delta higher and force it farther into the gulf. Like all such deltaic streams, the channel on the top of the delta is constantly shifting, cutting one bank, building up the other, overflowing both banks, and during high water sometimes entirely abandoning an old channel for a new one. In this way the river has from time to time flowed into the Salton Sea for some years or centuries, and anon has shifted to the eastward and discharged again into the gulf. This is the general course the river has followed ever since its discovery by the Spaniards in the 16th century.

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her work demanded the inspiration of a soul, and she had an enviable position compared with that of many of her Oriental sisters in polygamy.

"Gradually these masterpieces in mahogany, deep chocolate, terra-cotta, old rose, burnt orange and black found their way to America, where their appeal was irresistible. Buyers raced one another across Europe into the Transcaspian home of history to secure the priceless treasures of a conquered race. The skill of the Tekke woman began to win its reward. Her genius had caused the art world to wear a path to her hut and her open-air loom. But there was the unhappy side.

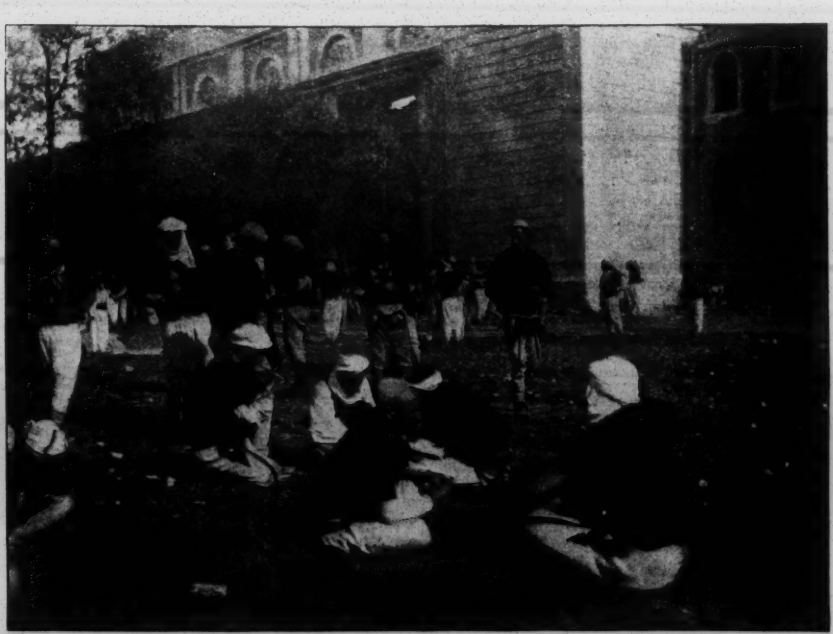
"Only the rich young Turkomans could afford to buy a wife at the exorbitant price her skill made possible. Parents raised the price of their daughters, consoling themselves with the fact that if they could not produce offspring they could at least produce valuable rugs. The age of marriage became higher. Caught in the trap which skillful women had woven, the young men revolted from the exaggerated demands of the avaricious and unromantic parents and sought cheaper wives elsewhere, while Tekke women, robbed of love and enmeshed in their own skeins of fine wool, dragged out busy lives of hated spinsterhood."

A CHRISTIAN MAIDEN OF THE ALBANIAN MOUNTAINS

Her religion is indicated by the fact that she is unveiled. Her country is rugged and in the main inhospitable, and her domestic life is fraught with many hardships; but in one particular the Albanian woman is more fortunate than many of her sisters of the Balkan Peninsula. She is honored and revered by her menfolk, and nowhere else in Europe is a woman traveling alone in less danger of molestation than in this so-called "lawless" country

"At high water the river normally overflows its banks in the valley regions all the way from the Grand Canyon to the Gulf of California. In unusually high water, such as occurred in 1891, the overflow running into the Salton Sink has been sufficient to materially raise the level of the lake and overflow the tracks of the Southern Pacific Railway, which are built along its shores."

Bulletin No. 5, February 14, 1921



MOUNTAINEERS IN GALA ATTIRE CELEBRATING A FEAST DAY IN TOWN: ALBANIA

The Albanian affects two types of headdress—a white skull cap and a scarf twisted around his head and under his chin, after the fashion of a Bedouin. Cattle-raising is the chief source of livelihood for the mountain tribes